



WILLITON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SOMERSET.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1939.







Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

To The Chairman and Members of the Williton Rural District Council,  
Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to present to you my 13th Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitation of your District.

The District extends over an area of 97,000 acres and for about 32 miles along the shores of the Bristol Channel.

The population of the District is estimated at 12,400 and the estimated number of inhabited houses is 3626.

The rateable value is £32,402 and the sum of £252 - 7 - 6 is represented by one penny rate.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Registrar General's Return shows 179 births of which 89 were males and 90 females.

The birth rate is therefore 14.43 per 1000, compared with 11.51 of last year.

The Registrar General's Return of deaths shows 144, ( 72 males and 72 females), and this gives a death rate of 11.61 per 1000, compared with 13.70 of last year.

The number of deaths of Infants under one year were 7, which gives an Infant Mortality of 39.1 compared with 51.09 of last year.

No women died in consequence of childbirth.

There were no deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria.



Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

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It is my privilege to present to you my 13th Annual

Report upon the Health and Sanitation of your District.

The District extends over an area of 97,000 acres and

for about 32 miles along the shores of the Bristol Channel.

The population of the District is estimated at 18,400

and the estimated number of inhabited houses is 3626.

The rateable value is £25,402 and the sum of

£252 - 7 - 6 is represented by one penny rate.

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

The Registrar General's Return shows 179 births of which 89 were

males and 90 females.

The birth rate is therefore 14.45 per 1000, compared with 11.51 of

last year.

The Registrar General's Return of deaths shows 144, (72 males and

72 females), and this gives a death rate of 11.61 per 1000, compared

with 13.70 of last year.

The number of deaths of infants under one year were 7, which gives

an Infant Mortality of 39.1 compared with 51.09 of last year.

No women died in consequence of childbirth.

There were no deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever or

Diphtheria.



## HEALTH SERVICES.

There is an Isolation Hospital, known as the Minehead and Williton Hospital, where cases of Infectious Diseases, (other than Small Pox) which cannot be satisfactorily isolated at home are sent.

There is a Steam Disinfector where all bedding and clothing can be disinfected, and a motor ambulance provided, in which infectious cases can be removed from their homes to the Hospital.

The County Authorities have a Small Pox Hospital at Polden Hills to which any case occurring in the District can go.

The County have a Tuberculosis Dispensary at Minehead at which Dr. Short the County Tuberculosis Officer or Dr. Martyn the Assistant Tuberculosis Officer attends every Thursday, and to which all residents in the District can go for examination.

A Lady Health Visitor visits every known case and reports upon it.

Care Committees have been formed in the District, who, when necessary provide extra nourishment in needy cases.

In needful cases a shelter is provided on the recommendation of the County Tuberculosis Officer.

There is no Institution in the District which provides for unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Children or Homeless Children, other than the Public Assistance Institution.



HEALTH SERVICES.

HEALTH

There is an Isolation Hospital, known as the Minehead and Wilton Hospital, where cases of Infectious Diseases, (other than Small Pox) which cannot be satisfactorily isolated at home are sent. There is a Steam Disinfecter where all bedding and clothing can be disinfected, and a motor ambulance provided, in which infectious cases can be removed from their homes to the Hospital. The County Authorities have a Small Pox Hospital at Falden Hills to which any case occurring in the District can go. The County have a Tuberculosis Dispensary at Minehead at which Dr. Short the County Tuberculosis Officer or Dr. Martyn the Assistant Tuberculosis Officer attends every Thursday, and to which all residents in the District can go for examination. A Lady Health Visitor visits every known case and reports upon it. The Care Committees have been formed in the District, who, when necessary provide extra nourishment in needy cases. In needful cases a shelter is provided on the recommendation of the County Tuberculosis Officer. There is no Institution in the District which provides for unmarried Mothers, illegitimate Children or Homeless Children, other than the Public Assistance Institution. The number of deaths of infants under one year was 7, which gives an Infant Mortality of 39.1 per cent with 21.00 at last year. No woman died in consequence of childbed. There were no deaths from measles, Whooping Cough, Scarlatina or Diphtheria.



Infectious Diseases. Number of Cases Notified. Removed to Hospital. Deaths

Application is made by the Doctor in charge of the case			
Small Pox.			
Scarlet Fever.	12	12	
Diphtheria.	1		
Enteric Fever.			
Puerperal Fever.			
Pneumonia.	1		
Encephalitis Lethargica.			
Acute Poliomyelitis.			
Ophthalmia Neonatorium.			
Puerperal Pyrexia.			
Puerperal Sepsis.			
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.			
Erysipelas.	4	3	
Totals	18	15	Nil

Scarlet Fever. No area was chiefly affected, and the cases were of a mild type. The rate for the whole Country being 1.89 per 1,000, whilst this District was .96 per 1,000.

Diphtheria. One case of Diphtheria was notified during the year. The rate of the whole Country being 1.14 per 1,000.

A supply of Diphtheria Anti-Toxin is kept by the M.O.H., and can be supplied at any time when required, and in doubtful cases, swabs are sent to the County Laboratory for examination.

Neither the Selrick nor the Dick Test has been used in this District.

Pneumonia. One case of Pneumonia was notified during the year.

Puerperal Fever, Puerperal Pyrexia, Puerperal Sepsis and Ophthalmia

Neonatorium. There were no cases during the year.

Arrangements regarding Puerperal cases are made by the County Authorities as follows:-

Hospital.	Class of Cases Admitted.			
Bristol Royal Infirmary	O.N.	P.F.	&	P.P.
Bridgwater Hospital	O.N.	P.F.	&	P.P.
Wells & District Cottage Hospital	O.N.	P.F.	&	P.P.
Yeovil and District Hospital	O.N.	P.F.	&	P.P.
Taunton Isolation Hospital	O.N.			
Chard & District Hospital		P.F.	&	P.P.

By an arrangement with the County Authorities, the Public and Private Water Supplies are periodically examined, by this means a defective supply can soon be discovered.

A Local Inquiry by the Ministry of Health has been held, but the







Nurses. Most of the 7 villages without a piped water supply are scattered and

Application is made by the Doctor in charge of the case direct to the County Medical Officer of Health for a nurse for Ophthalmia Neonatorum cases.

For cases of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia, usually the nurse associated with the case is retained, but in special cases a fully trained nurse in addition is sent, if application is made direct to the County Medical Officer of Health explaining the special necessity.

area with regard to piped water services and how well the District is served in this respect. TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases. Deaths.

Age Periods. Pulmonary. Non-Pulmonary. Pulmonary. Non-Pulmonary.

Water main extensions have been carried out at	M.	F.	M.	F.	at Wotton Courtenay	M.	F.
Williton and Doniford.							
0.							
1.							
5.				1.			
10.		1.					
15.							
20.	1.	4.					
25.		1.			1.		
35.		2.			1.		
45.	2.						
55.	1.				1.		
65up.	1.	1.					
Totals.	5.	9.		1.	1.	2.	

WATER SUPPLY.

A Local Inquiry by the Ministry of Health was held early in 1938, and the work has been carried out in accordance with the Scheme approved. Private enterprise is chiefly responsible for pipe borne water in most of the villages in the District, the District Council being responsible for comparatively few.

For instance, there are private water supplies in 14 villages, in 11 villages the supply belongs to the District Council, leaving 7 without a piped water supply.

By an arrangement with the County Authorities, the Public and Private Water Supplies are periodically examined, by this means a defective supply can soon be discovered.

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TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases. Deaths.

Age Periods. Pulmonary. Non-Pulmonary. Pulmonary. Non-Pulmonary.

	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0.						
1.						
2.						
10.						
15.						
20.						
25.						
35.						
45.						
55.						
65up.						
Totals.	5.	2.	1.	1.	1.	2.

WATER SUPPLY.

Private enterprise is chiefly responsible for pipe borne water in most of the villages in the District, the District Council being responsible for comparatively few.

For instance, there are private water supplies in 14 villages, in 11 villages the supply belongs to the District Council, leaving 7 without a piped water supply.

By an arrangement with the County Authorities, the Public and Private Water Supplies are periodically examined, by this means a defective supply can soon be discovered.



Most of the 7 villages without a piped water supply are scattered and the inhabitants depend upon isolated springs and wells.

There is not much cause for comment for the water supply of the District as a whole.

Six Maps have been prepared showing the source, storage and distribution of all the Public and Private Water Supplies in the District. One copy has been deposited with the Somerset County Council and one is kept in hand. These maps show very clearly the exact condition of the Council's area with regard to piped water services and how well the District is served in this respect.

The question of a new water supply for Luckwell Bridge in the Parish of Cutcombe is in hand.

Water main extensions have been carried out at Wootton Courtenay, Williton and Doniford.

#### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There is no pollution of the Local Streams worth mentioning, other than the complaints with regard to the Wootton Courtenay and Withycombe sewerage emptying into the Local Streams.

With regard to Withycombe, a new sewerage scheme has now been provided and all the houses in the Village are connected up.

A Local Inquiry by the Ministry of Health was held early in 1938, and the work has been carried out in accordance with the Scheme approved by them.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Most of the larger Villages have a system of piped sewers which are kept in good working order. The villages of Roadwater, Bossington, and Holford are however still unsewered.

A Scheme has been prepared to provide a system of sewers for the whole of the Parish of Selworthy, which will include Allerford and Bossington, and the same is now before the Ministry of Health for their approval.

A Local Inquiry by the Ministry of Health has been held, but the



Most of the 7 villages without a piped water supply are considered and  
the information regarding these villages and wells.  
There is not much more for comment for the water supply of the  
District as a whole.

Six Kaps have been prepared showing the sources, storage and distribution  
of all the wells and rivers from which the District gets its water.  
has been deposited with the District Council and one in each of  
the 7 villages. These maps show very clearly the exact position of the wells  
and also the extent of the piped water services and how well the District is  
served in this respect.

The question of a new water supply for Luckwell village in the District  
at present is in hand.

Water main extensions have been carried out at Weston Downham,  
Willingham and Brixham.

### WATER SUPPLY

There is no pollution of the local streams nor is anything, other  
than the improvements with regard to the Weston Downham and Willingham  
wastage supply into the local streams.  
With regard to Willingham, a new sewage scheme has now been  
provided and all the houses in the village are connected up.  
A local inquiry by the Ministry of Health was held early in 1933, and  
the report was sent to the Ministry with the following observations  
by them.

### WATER SUPPLY

Most of the larger villages have a system of piped sewers which are  
kept in good working order. The villages of Brixham, Brixington,  
and Brixton are however still unsewered.  
A scheme has been prepared to provide a system of sewers for the  
whole of the Parish of Brixington, which will include Allford and  
Brixington, and the same is now before the Ministry of Health for  
their approval.  
A local inquiry by the Ministry of Health has been held, but the



outbreak of War has caused the Government to with-hold their consent.

#### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are no cloacely built or populous centres in the District, where closets on the conservancy system remain in any great quantity.

There are still however scattered Privies and Earth Closets in the District, and these are to be found in every Parish.

#### SCAVENGING.

The collection of house refuse in the District is dealt with by the Council in a very thorough manner, and practically the whole of the Rural Area has its refuse collected.

Dumps are provided as follows:-

1. At Bossington with a forced draught Incinerator to serve Porlock, Luccombe, Selworthy, Wootton Courtenay and Minehead Without.
2. At Dunster with a forced draught Incinerator to serve Dunster, Timberscombe, Cutcombe, Carhampton, Withycombe and half of the Parish of Old Cleeve.
3. At Woolston to serve Williton, Treborough, Luxborough, half of the Parish of Old Cleeve, Nettlecombe, Elwerthy, Brompton Ralph, Monksilver Olatwerthy, Stogumber, Bicknoller and Sampford Brett.
4. At Stringston to serve Stringston, Dodington, Stogursey, West and East Quantoxhead, Kilve, Holford and Kilton.

The collections are made fortnightly for Porlock, Williton and Dunster, and Monthly elsewhere.

The whole of the collections are made by means of a modern covered Dustless Motor Vehicle, and there is no waste or unsightliness during transit.

#### SUMMARY OF WORKS DONE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Inspections.	1,047.
Re-Inspections.	661.
Total.	<u>1,708.</u>







Houses Redrained.	55.	Premises Disinfected.	22.
New W.C's Provided.	29.	Milk Samples for Examination.	50.
Premises Limed & Cleansed.	22.	Water Samples for Analysis.	77.
Slaughter House Inspections.	276.		
Dairy Inspections.	118.		

### S C H O O L S.

The Sanitary Condition and water supply to the Public Elementary Schools are on the whole good.

### SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The Sanitary Staff consists of Mr.R.E.Jackman, Inspector of Nuisances and Sanitary Surveyor, an whole time Officer, who holds the certificate of the Sanitary Institute as a Qualified Inspector, and is a Member of the Municipal and County Engineers, also a Fellow of the Incorporated Association of Surveyors.

Additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr.R.B.Perrett, M.S.I.A, who is also a Certified Inspector of Meat and Foods.

The Slaughter Houses, Cowsheds and Dairies are now receiving the attention they require and conditions are consequently improving.

The following Adoptive Acts are in force in the District:-

Public Health Acts Amendment Acts 1890.

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act 1890.

### HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

The Housing conditions in the District has greatly improved, and the Council have erected altogether 307 houses since the last War, and has greatly improved the Housing Conditions in the District.

It was the intention of the Council to erect a further 20 houses, and Tenders were received for 14 of them, but the present War has interfered with the programme.

Careful attention is still being paid to the provisions of the Housing Acts.



125.	Trained Disinfectors.	118.	Public Health Inspectors.
126.	Milk Samples for Examination.	119.	Public Health Inspectors.
127.	Water Samples for Analysis.	120.	Public Health Inspectors.

# REPORT

The Sanitary Condition and water supply to the Public Elementary Schools are on the whole good.

## Sanitary Administration.

The Sanitary Staff consists of Mr. R. A. Jackson, Inspector of Nuisances and Sanitary Surveyor, an able and efficient officer, who holds the certificate of the Sanitary Institute as a qualified inspector, and is a member of the Municipal and County Engineers, also a Fellow of the Incorporated Association of Surveyors.

Additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H. E. Roberts, M.B.E., who is also a qualified Inspector of Meat and Poultry.

The Sanitary House, Cowshed and Dairies are now receiving the attention they require and conditions are consequently improving.

The following Sanitary Acts are in force in the District:-

Sanitary House and Dairies Act 1892.

Sanitary House and Dairies Act 1890.

## HOUSING

The Housing conditions in the District have greatly improved, and the Council have erected altogether 307 houses since the last War, and have greatly improved the Housing Conditions in the District.

It was the intention of the Council to erect a further 20 houses, and 1000 have received for 14 of them, but the present War has interfered with the programme.

Great attention is still being paid to the provision of the Housing Act.



HOUSING. As required by the Ministry of Health.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

(i) By the Local Authority.

With State Assistance.	(a) Rehousing under Housing Act 1936.	Nil.
	(b) Overcrowding.	Nil.
	(c) Other.	Nil.

Without State Assistance.

(ii) By other Bodies or Persons.

(a) With State Assistance.	24.
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Housing Inspections:-

1.	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	103.
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	290.
2.	(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925.	38.
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	38.
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	3.
4.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding Sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	32.

Housing Action.

(a) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	21.
(b) Number of houses demolished voluntarily, or in consequence of informal action.	3.

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:-

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	5.
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.	
(a) By Owners.	5.
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners.	Nil.



Number of new houses erected during the year:-

(1) By the Local Authority.

With State Assistance. (a) Rehousing under Housing Act 1936. Nil.  
Assistance. (b) Overcrowding. Nil.  
(c) Other. Nil.

Without State Assistance.

(ii) By other bodies or persons. (a) With State Assistance. 24.

Housing Inspections:-

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). 102.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. 120.

2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Inspections 1935. 20.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. 33.

3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. 5.

4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding Sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 22.

Housing Action.

(a) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. 21.

(b) Number of houses demolished voluntarily, or in consequence of informal action. 3.

Action under statutory powers during the year:-

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 18 of the Housing Act 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. 5.

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices. (a) By Owners. 3.  
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners. 11.



**B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-**

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By Owners. Nil.

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners. Nil.

**C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Act 1936.**

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. Nil.

(3) Clearance Orders made. Nil.

(4) Clearance Orders confirmed. Nil.

(a) Number of Houses Involved. Nil.

(b) Number of Houses demolished. Nil.

**Housing Act 1936 - Overcrowding:-**

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year. 10.

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein. 10.

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein. 73.

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year. Nil.

**Housing Act 1936 - Overcrowding Contd:.**

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. 5.

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases. 40.

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. Nil.

(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH may consider it desirable to report. Nil.



B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.

Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

Nil.

(a) By Owners.  
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners.

Nil.

C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Act 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.

Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.

Nil.

(3) Clearance Orders made.

Nil.

(4) Clearance Orders confirmed.

Nil.

(a) Number of Houses involved.  
(b) Number of Houses demolished.

Nil.

Nil.

Housing Act 1936 - Overcrowding:-

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.

10.

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein.

10.

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein.

73.

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.

Nil.

Housing Act 1936 - Overcrowding (contd.): of informal

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.

5.

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases.

40.

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.

Nil.

(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the MEDICAL

Nil.

OFFICER OF HEALTH may consider it desirable to report.

Nil.



M I L K      S U P P L Y.

Number of Producers on the Register. 196.

Number of Distributors on the Register divided  
as follows:-

(a) Distributors only. 4.

(b) Distributors who are also Producers. 80.

( A Producer is only included as a Distributor  
if he definitely makes a business of selling  
his milk by retail to individual customers).

Number of Licenses given to Graded Milk Distributors. Nil.

(if any, give particulars of designation).

M E A T      S U P E R V I S I O N.

Slaughter Houses. Licensed 8. Registered 6. Total 14.

Number of carcasses inspected during the year.

Beasts. 173. Sheep. 378. Pigs. 146.

Meat Condemned. Whole Beasts. 1. Whole Sheep. 2.

Bovine Lungs. 2. Bovine Livers. 5. Sheep Livers. 11.

Pigs Lungs. 1. Pigs Livers. 3. Pigs Heads. 13.

SIGNED,

E. Atkinson,

Medical Officer of Health

To The Williton Rural District Council,

Somerset.



MILK SUPPLY.

196.

Number of Producers on the Register.  
Number of Distributors on the Register divided  
as follows:-

4.

(a) Distributors only.

(b) Distributors who are also Producers. 80.  
(A Producer is only included as a Distributor  
if he definitely makes a business of selling  
his milk by retail to individual customers).

Number of Licenses given to Graded Milk Distributors.  
(if any, give particulars of designation).

MEAT SUPPLY.

Total 14.

Slaughter Houses. Licensed 8. Registered 6.

Number of carcasses inspected during the year.

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Meat Condemned. Whole Beasts. 1. Whole Sheep. 2.

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